TRANSCRIPT—JOHN AGER

Fairview Community History Project

Interviewee: John Ager

Interviewer: Ruth Ehrlich and Sandra Jackson

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RE: Okay, today is July the 15th, 2018. This is Ruth Ehrlich and Sandra Jackson. We're here with John Ager at the Old Home Place?

JA: The Old Sherrill's Inn, my wife's home place.

RE: Okay. The Old Sherrill's Inn. We're going to interview John about his history here in Fairview and just let him tell us about kind of what's going on. With that said, John, we're going to open the floor for you and just ask you to tell us how did you all come to be here? Did you grow up in Fairview?

JA: No.

RE: Okay.

JA: I grew up in Atlanta. But my family had a farm in Black Mountain. We called it Ager's Acres. I spent my summers up here. It's now Cheshire on Route 9. So, I had

history up here. Loved being in the mountains all summer with my cousins and grandfather. I came here in 1969. I went to college up in Massachusetts and Annie went to Vassar College. I met Annie at Vassar College and I chased her down here for the summer in 1969. The price of being here was to milk the cows all summer. Annie's dad knew a free worker when he could find one. And, I loved it here. I loved the family and I loved the atmosphere. I love being out in the country. I love Fairview. It's just a wonderful thing. So, that's how.. We finished up school and really moved here in 1971.

RE: What did you major in in college?

JA: History.

RE: History was your major? What were you doing?

JA: American history. American history.

RE: What were you going to do with that?

JA: I was a teacher for a while.

RE: Okay.

JA: I've made great use of it all my life. It's really what I'm most interested in.

SJ: He had a book ( ).

JA: Yeah. I'm a history guy. That's what I like.

RE: So, when you came to Asheville in '71, what did you do?

JA: I got my teacher's certificate and taught in a private high school, a funny little private high school called the Newfound School, the 1970s, which was great experience. Many of my best lifelong friends are my students from that school.

RE: How long...

JA: We lived out here.

RE: How long did you teach?

JA: Well, I think it's about six years, six or seven years.

RE: And then, what did you do?

JA: Then I came out here. I managed the farm, the Hickory Nut Gap Farm. It was a dairy farm. And, I did some other projects. I did a history project. There's a book called Cabins and Castles, which is a book about... You may know that book. It was a book about the architecture of Buncombe County, trying to kind of locate what interesting architecture remained in the county. I wrote the Buncombe County history for that, which I thoroughly enjoyed. It was a good chance to learn about it.

RE: When did you and Annie get married?

JA: 1971.

RE: 1971. Did you live here when you got married?

JA: No, we were still in school.

RE: Okay.

JA: We went back and forth. We went to... I graduated... We got married in January of 1971. I graduated from my college, Williams College, end of that year in May. Then we went to Europe. Annie's sister, Susie, was living in London. We got involved in something called L'Abri Fellowship over there, a Christian organization. We stayed with Susie in London and then went to this old manor house that they just started in rural England. Then we traveled some and went to Switzerland and came back. And, Annie had another year at Vassar. So, we went up there and lived up in New York while she finished her last year. It was really probably 1973 by the time we got back down here for good.

RE: What was the draw that brought you down here?

JA: I loved this area partly because of my family being in the area. I liked...I'd grown up in Atlanta. Atlanta was a great place to grow up, but I didn't really want to live in the city and I didn't want to live... This was just so appealing. And, Annie's family was a fascinating group of people. I felt very fortunate to have married into this great family.

RE: What was Fairview like when you all came back?

JA: It was different. It was...

RE: Tell us about that.

JA: Yeah. It was still, I would say, old rural farming Fairview in those years. Starting to change. There were more... Beginning of people moving in from elsewhere, suburban people coming in. But, for the most part, it was still rural Fairview. I like to say that one of the things that changed the place for me in my mind was when they built the new

school, the new elementary school, and the new high school. When they built Food Lion, for the first time you could go to a grocery store. For the first few years, it felt odd to be in a modern grocery store and not go to Tickle's or Merrells' to pick up groceries.

SJ: Grab milk.

JA: Yeah. Yeah, milk. And, I think the building of the library had a big effect on our sense of community, that things were really changing here.

RE: Do you remember when those happened?

JA: Not really.

RE: Just curiosity.

JA: I was on the board that did the new school. I should remember that, but I can't really remember when that was. One of our...

SJ: ( )

JA: Listen, you know what? You probably can look that up. One of the things I remember about that, Ray Bailey and I, and David Holt's wife, Ginny Callaway, were on this advisory committee on the new school. Ray Bailey was really smart about how to get the best for our community that we could. One of the things we wanted was we wanted to be able to keep the old gym, but at the same time we wanted a new gym that was as nice and large as the old gym.

So, we got the county to promise us to build a nice new gym, which they did. Then I think they thought they were going to tear down the old gym. Then we pulled together a

big effort to save the old gym and manage it as a community center, which I think worked out really well. I think it's been a... Annie, my wife Annie, ran the old gym for years. Every time we drove home from somewhere in town and there was a light on, we had to stop and see what was going on there, see if it was good people or not good people there. But, I think that was something that's worked out great for the community.

RE: Does the community center still exist?

JA: Yeah. The old gym...

SJ: Right next to the school.

JA: Right next to the school.

RE: Okay.

JA: That brick gym.

SJ: And then, yeah, that's nice.

RE: Okay.

SJ: We've had birthday parties there.

JA: Yeah.

SJ: Craft shows.

RE: Okay. Talk to us a little bit about... Sandra understands this. I don't because I'm new here. But, you talk about Tickles and Merrells, and that's where you went as the store.

JA: Yeah.

RE: Talk to me about those stores a little bit.

JA: Yeah.

RE: Like what they were like.

JA: David Tickle's is where Dickies is now. And, David was a real fixture of the community. He was an old timey proprietor. His wife, Nancy, was a teacher at the school. And, he had... It was not the neatest store you've ever been to. Is that about right? If you wanted to find the right plumbing piece, it had everything in it. It had these bins you had to drag your hands around looking for the right bolt or the right plumbing piece and you never quite knew what anything cost. The food he kept was fine, but it was kind of minimal. It was wonderful. It was a country store. He was a little grouchy most of the time, which was kind of his character, which kind of made it more fun to go there.

SJ: Except with Jennifer. He used to love to tease her.

JA: Oh. People would try to charge stuff there and he'd let some people, not let some people. Then you had a little tickets in the back. That's that story. Guy Merrell ran the little store that's now the Eblen gas station.

RE: Okay.

JA: The story is... This is an older story that I think Bruce Whitaker tells. There's Merrells on this side of the store and maybe coming out of Gerton, and Merrills on the other side. His sign spelled Merrells one way for the people coming this way and another spelling for the people coming the other way. You ever heard that? Is that...

RE: No, I have not.

JA: Listen, that's what he told me anyway.

SJ: There was also Wilson's Grocery at the Old Fort Road.

JA: That's right. Old Fort Road. Well, I never stopped there much because we weren't that end of town. Guy Merrell was a real character. He had a big cigar. It was a dark and dingy store. You could find things in there that had been there quite a while. And, he was kind of a political figure in Fairview. Wouldn't you say that's true? He was almost like a democratic boss. He could... In those days, local school committees had a fair amount of power. He would often be the one managing the people that were appointed to that.

They would hire lunchroom ladies and help manage the school. They tended to be very political and very self-serving, I think's maybe the nicest way to put it. But, he was a important political figure. He's the kind of person that if you were running for office in those days, you would come out to speak to him and he wanted you to believe he could deliver 30, 40, 50 votes or something. But, he was an interesting guy.

RE: So, when Fairview, if you were doing your grocery shopping at Merrells and at Tickles before the Food Lion, was Fairview fairly rural beyond that?

JA: You mean beyond...

RE: Beyond...

JA: Like out here?

RE: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

JA: Yeah. Used to be, there was a store within walking distance. If you go up Old Fort Road, there were old stores that, by the time I came here, weren't really stores anymore. They were just very minimal stores.

SJ: ( ) Grocery was one of them.

JA: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Or, out Cane Creek, people had little tiny stores and could make a little bit of money. As people were able to get cars and drive, that kind of changed. It was mostly the old staples, coffee and sugar and that kind of thing. I don't think Guy Merrell ever got very rich in there, but maybe he did. I don't know.

RE: Where did you and Annie live when you all first came here?

JA: When we first came, we lived down there. The post office named our driveway Ager Lane.

RE: Okay.

JA: It was an old tenet house. It was kind of falling apart.

SJ: I liked it.

JA: Yeah. It was a great old house. When we moved in there, it was a milker living there. Might not quite remember his name, but he cared much more about his car than living in the house. He had one light bulb that worked in the house and then three in the garage so he could work on his... Name was Carl Jones. He was a Seventh Day Adventist. He was a real character. Anyway, we kind of lived with him for a while and then he moved on and we slowly fixed up the house and raised our children there.

RE: I was going to say, and how many children do you have?

JA: I have four sons.

RE: You have four sons.

JA: Four sons. Mm-hmm.

RE: All born and raised here in Fairview?

JA: That's correct. All went to Fairview School and Reynolds High School. Yeah, it was just a great experience. One of the things I loved doing in those days was coaching. I coached James. I coached my four boys. I loved coaching little boys' baseball and little bit of older boys' baseball and soccer. I never really had played soccer, but...

SJ: I'll tell people what you said.

JA: What did I say?

SJ: Something about you used to say, "Y'all were people who didn't know what you were doing, teaching kids how to do it," or something. I don't remember every word.

JA: I never played. At that time, the county parks and rec managed the soccer program. So, they did it by school district. I was the Reynolds district coordinator and I ran around trying to find coaches and places to practice and play. And, I thoroughly fell in love with the game. I just came back from watching the World Cup.

RE: Oh cool.

JA: It was a great soccer game. I played a little bit after that, just old man soccer. I wasn't never very good at it. But, it's a great game for young children, I realized. Because, they're running around. My favorite game is baseball. I will always, I'll die in my grave being a great baseball fan. But, I fell in love with soccer and we got that program going really well here. We worked on getting the high school program better and better. One of the things I'm most proud of, I guess, is I got the girls' soccer program going at Reynolds. It's a great story to me.

I'd been talking to Ron Dalton, who was the principal at Reynolds, the legendary principal at Reynolds. He did not want to have a girls' team. It's expense and activity bus time and field use. Girls' soccer would've come to Reynolds at some point anyway. But, I kept bugging him about it and he would say no. Then he got in a big fight with the school superintendent and they exiled him to Black Mountain for one year.

Ed Graham was the principal in that interim. I was friends of Ed's. And, Ed completely backed me up and we got the girls' team going and I found some coaches. I will point out that in the last three or four years, both the Reynolds boy and the Reynolds girls' team have either won the state or been runners up. Under Patrick Gladys, it's become a fabulous program, and I got to be there in the beginning. All four of my sons played soccer at Reynolds.

RE: That's great. That's great. Yeah. You said you lived on Ager's Lane, is that what they...

JA: Ager Lane. Yeah, right here.

RE: Ager Lane? And, when you moved from Ager's Lane, is this where you came?

JA: Yeah, Annie's parents lived here. Jamie and Elspeth Clark. He died first. And, when she died, they needed to have somebody live in this house. You can't just have this house. But, what to do with this house is the big family question I suppose. But, we got voted in, which... I love living here. We don't own the house. Annie's a part owner, but I think Annie manages it like her mother did, which means that there's always people coming and going. It's very open and we have events here. Annie's mother always said, "We've been given this beautiful place and, if we don't share it, then God will take it away from us." That was always her attitude. So, we try to keep that going.

RE: I've been told, because I am new to this area, but I've been told that if I ever just wanted to come up here and just come in, that the door is always open.

JA: Yeah, that's true.

RE: Has that always been the case? I mean...

JA: We hate for people to knock. It's kind of a bother when somebody knocks.

SJ: Yeah. You just open the door and holler usually.

JA: Yeah. Yeah.

RE: But, that hasn't changed in all the years.

JA: No. No, it's still that way.

RE: How about that?

JA: Yeah, I think that's the way. Annie's running her summer camp right now and it's just been packed with mostly teenagers living here. A lot of my Ager relatives from all over the country come down here for their vacation and their kids go to camp. We've had weeks of family reunion every night for dinner. It's been great. It's wonderful.

RE: That's great.

JA: I would not have been able to keep up with all my distant family if not for that.

RE: So, your family is from...

JA: Well, my father's family is from Alabama.

RE: Okay.

JA: My grandmother's from Selma, Alabama. My father grew up in Black Mountain. My grandfather, my father's father, was actually from New Hampshire. And, his father was a really interesting man. If you go to any library and look up my name, John Ager, there'll be books that he wrote. He was a minister in a church called the Swedenborgian Church, which was the kind of...

RE: Which is your...

JA: Hm?

RE: Your great-grandfather?

JA: My great-grandfather. A real intellectual, very learned man and friends with a lot of interesting people of the day. This would've been the late 1800s, early 1900s. My grandfather that came down here, he came down here, he was an engineer. He'd gone to

MIT. As I understand it, he came down here to... He ended up with a brick company and he came down here and had some early jobs, engineering jobs, different southern cities. And, met my grandmother in Selma. Had a brick company and made a lot of bricks for a lot of the buildings going on in Florida, because they don't have clay in Florida. So, they would ship the bricks from Birmingham down there.

When the depression hit, the brick company went under and he decided to move his family up here. He bought this farm in the '20s. He thought they could live cheaper up here, and he loved it up here. It was kind of the golden era of the family. My father graduated from the Asheville Farm School, which is now Warren Wilson, 1935, and went to Duke. My father was John Ager and his younger brother was also John Ager. My grandfather was not a slave to convention.

RE: How did...

JA: We called him Uncle Buddy, who was just here. He's 92. He was here. He was here over the last couple weeks.

RE: Uncle Buddy is your...

JA: Uncle Buddy is my uncle.

RE: The other John.

JA: The other John, the younger John. They both... My grandfather, he built this wonderful place over there with lots of things for people to do. One of the things he built was a tennis court, an old clay court he just made. My father and Uncle Buddy, the two Johns, became fabulous tennis players. If you go around this community, if you look in

the paper in the 1930s, '40s and '50s, you'll see that they were beating everybody in tennis around here.

Tennis was a big game in those days. My Uncle Buddy, he ended up going to Harvard, playing tennis there. Then he went to Oxford in England on a Fulbright scholarship and played at Wimbledon for several years. Then he came back and did graduate work, as I understand it, at Chapel Hill. My father went to Duke and was an electrical engineer, was captain of the Duke tennis team. I grew up mostly watching them play tennis. It seemed like it was often a little boring.

RE: What was your dad's name?

JA: John Curtis. John Curtis Ager. Same as mine.

RE: So, we've got four John Agers?

JA: Well, there's more than that. There's my father and his younger brother are two. I'm one. But, there's a Birmingham John Ager, there's a New Jersey John Ager.

RE: All related?

JA: Yeah, we're all...

RE: Oh, my gracious.

JA: ... first cousins. I named my son John. But, I told Annie, I said, "We're not going to call him that because there's too many of them in the world." I was the oldest of my generation. I was Big John and there was Birmingham John and like that, to keep us all straight. I said that's too confusing.

RE: What was your grandfather's name?

JA: John. John Winfred Ager.

RE: And, he had the brick company?

JA: He had the brick company.

RE: How funny.

JA: He was a fascinating guy. I was always a little afraid of him. But, he'd let us... At this Black Mountain place, he'd let us just roam around and he'd let us use his workshop, which, you know, I realize now was awful nice of him because we probably made a mess of it. But, we'd go in there and make stuff with all this equipment. We could have cut our fingers off and everything.

SJ: You raised your kids that way too.

JA: I did. I did. Exactly.

SJ: ‘Cause James loved coming for that reason.

JA: We were okay with letting them do a lot. Sorry about the motorcycles.

RE: That's okay. And, your grandmother?

JA: My grandmother...

RE: What's her name?

JA: Her name was Leila Lamar. L-E-I-L-A. Leila. Leila. I think that's right. We called her Gang-Gang. Leila Lamar. And then, Ager. She was from sort of a wealthy family, at least

by Selma standards, back when Selma was kind of a cotton place in central Alabama. She used to go to Europe every summer. I mean she had a... I think the money all disappeared in the Depression. Everybody used to say that my grandmother couldn't do anything because she was always taken care of by other people. And, she had kind of a luxurious life. But, I knew her as someone that... She loved to make apple sauce and do all the country things. She had a raspberry patch and made raspberry jam. I used to love that about her. She was a very sweet lady. I didn't understand when I was growing up that she had this pretty privileged upbringing.

RE: Do you know how she got the nickname Gang-Gang?

JA: I think it was some grandchild that didn't pronounce grandmother right.

RE: Okay.

JA: I guess. That's what we called her.

RE: And, your mother?

JA: Yeah, my mother, who was Mary Lucille Peterson, and she hated to come to Black Mountain. My grandfather was kind of hard on her. What they loved to do over there was sit on the porch and have arguments, intellectual arguments I think for the most part. It was mostly a men thing. The men would sit there and they were probably dismissive of the women. One of those women was my father's younger sister, Isbell, who lives in Fairview. You should really talk to her. Although, her memory's not so great so maybe... But, she might remember.

But, she grew up with these older brothers that lorded over her. But, she was tough that she got to be as tough as they were, and I think became the person she was because of growing up there. She tells stories of they'd all take off on horses and leave her in the dust and she'd grit her teeth and catch up. She just loved these mountains.

RE: That's great.

JA: She retired here. I don't know how much she would remember. She's 96 now I think. But, she's been a great figure here in Fairview for 30 years and...

SJ: Sweet lady.

JA: ..a a great hero of mine. Anyway. My mother was from up north and she was a tennis player as well. That's how she met my father. There were four siblings, including me. I have an older sister, Heidi, who's been here during the camp. And, my brother, younger brother Tom, and a younger sister, Nancy. We all got together here over the summer, which was great.

RE: It is great. Your sons, you have John. Who are your other sons?

JA: His name is Eric.

RE: Eric.

JA: Everyone knows him as Eric.

RE: Okay.

JA: Because, I told you we had enough Johns. He was named John Ericsson.

RE: Aha. Okay.

JA: Eric graduated from Reynolds, was a really good student, and went to the Naval Academy. I remember the first... He went off... You graduate, you're like the star of your class. He was a good athlete. And, he went off to the Naval Academy for that awful Plebe Summer. The first postcard we got from him was, "Do you think I could still go to Chapel Hill?" But then, he said, "No, no, I can do this. I can do this." It was a great experience for him and he ended up doing really well at the Naval Academy. He was the head of his... Not a regiment, whatever. They divide it up into like 16 regiments.

I remember when we went to his graduation, his regiment was in second place. If they got the first place, then... They were still counting points, however they did it. Then he would get to pick the queen of the graduation. There was another name for it, I can't remember what it was. But, a young woman. There were always these beautiful young women in old fashioned gowns. So, we were really pulling for him to pull it out.

Because, we'd all gone up there in a big purple bus from Fairview with all these funny things. We wrote on the side of it and we just drove... I had bought this old bus that barely made it up there. And, we took Betsy Milford and a bunch of Fairview people up there. It was a week-long graduation and we just had a big, big time. And, I took my niece, Annie Louise Hamilton, who runs Flying Cloud...

RE: Oh, okay.

JA: ... down here. She had dreadlocks at that point in her life. So, if Eric's regiment had won, we were going to make her the queen, to be the first queen in Naval Academy history that had dreadlocks. But, he didn't quite pull it out.

RE: What are your other three sons? What are their names?

JA: The second one is Kevin.

RE: Kevin.

JA: Kevin, who's also a great student at Reynolds. He was second in his class. Got beat out at the last minute by Sarah Milford. He went to Davidson College. Of my four sons, he's probably struggled the most. He ended up joining the army, served in Iraq and Afghanistan. I think the Afghanistan experience was really tough. I think out of the hundred people in his group, I think 30 of them were killed or injured. And, they were patrolling five miles from Kandahar. So, he came back and he ended up joining the National Guard and was redeployed to Kosovo, do peacekeeping. And, he almost died. He got the hantavirus, which is a deadly disease. The version of it in the Balkans where he was, was like 48% mortality rate.

They didn't really know what it was. The Army had never encountered that before. He went to the infirmary and they didn't know what it was. There was a German military doctor there that suspected that's what it was. So, they started treating him for it. They have a treatment over there for it that they didn't have over here. They flew him to the big hospital in Germany, Landstuhl Hospital. They called Annie and I up and said, "You

need to come over here. Your son's not doing well. You need to take care of him." So, we flew over.

He was married at that point. His wife and baby child was there. And, he... [yelling to a passerby] See ya, Haifa!

He recovered. Spent the summer in Walter Reed. We got to fly with him on the hospital plane with a couple of wounded people from Afghanistan on the plane. Flew him to Walter Reed and he recovered, but he never was... I think maybe he did. He'd had the hantavirus, he had seizures and couldn't see for a while. The Army really couldn't figure out... Some of the symptoms were not normal symptoms. Anyway, he got through that. His marriage didn't survive it.

He lives out in California with his child, Thera, where his wife's the primary caregiver. We're going to go out there in about a week. We go out there every so often and visit him and his beautiful, wonderful daughter. So, he's had the hardest time of it, but doing pretty well now. I think I always say that it was music that saved him. He plays mandolin in a pretty hot Bluegrass band in California. He called last night and said that they're going to perform when we're out there. I haven't ever seen him play before.

RE: Cool. Son Number Three.

JA: Number Three is Jamie.

RE: Jamie.

JA: James.

RE: James.

JA: Jamie. We have too many of those in the family too. Jamie went to Warren Wilson College. Had a great experience. He's like his mother. He never knew a stranger. He's also a great athlete, was a great soccer player at Reynolds and played at Warren Wilson as well. He met his wife, Amy, at Warren Wilson. When they graduated, they both decided to... We had shut down the dairy farm, I think it was 1989. He decided to come. We weren't sure what the next phase of the farm would be. He and Amy had a vision and they recreated Hickory Nut Gap Farm in a way I don't think any one of us could have imagined. It's become a big brand name now. It's been a very successful... Well, it continues to be a very successful company. They have three children that live here on the farm.

I should say that my oldest son, Eric, has had a big career in the Navy. He was a helicopter pilot mostly. Currently, he is the naval attache in the US Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. That's where his children have been living the last three years. They've all been here all summer. Now, he's going to go work for the George C. Marshall Foundation in Garmisch, Germany. He has four children, three boys and a girl. His oldest boy is going to go to Brevard College. I took him over there yesterday. And, his next son is going to finish up his high school at Christ School, paid for by the Navy. We were happy about that. I think it'll be a great thing. The other children will go with him to Germany.

RE: Okay, now who's Number Four?

JA: Number Four is Douglas.

RE: Douglas.

JA: Doug. Doug. Known in the old days as Boomer. I think he's always embarrassed when people call him Boomer, but that's what he was known as.

RE: Yeah.

JA: He was married about a year ago to a wonderful young woman. The woman he married was Jamie. So, it was another Jamie.

SJ: Gosh.

JA: She said to call her Jam. So, we've been calling her Jam. Keep her straight. We've been recently told she's expecting a child. If all goes well, we'll have Number Nine grandchild in January.

RE: Wow. Wow.

JA: He and his cousin, Phelps Clarke, Billy's son, have created Sugar Hollow Solar, which is the company just over there. They do residential installations of solar panels on people's houses. Become quite a successful business. I think they have 25 employees now.

RE: It sounds like you've had a lot of family and people around here still.

JA: Yeah, that's unusual that way.

RE: Tell us, because I'm curious how you got into politics and what difference you've made in Fairview as a result of your political career.

JA: Yeah. Well, I mean haven't been in politics very long. All I did was run for office against... Nathan who's my dear friend and neighbor. I hated it. I barely beat him. He was a good legislator himself.

RE: But, what caused you to run? What caused you to ( ).

JA: I was upset. I felt like that Raleigh had become two partisan. I'm a Democrat. I was worried the teachers weren't getting a fair shake. It was a lot of things. I was worried about the state backing off on environmental protections that I thought was the responsibility of the state and things like that. As I told you, my father-in-law, Jamie Clarke, was a congressman. So, he was kind of my inspiration. He was just a wonderful, wonderful man. I admired him a lot. And, I said, "Well, darn it all, I can run for office too." Sorry about, again, for those motorcycles. I should have gone to the other end of the porch. I'll let them go by. It's kind of the bane of my existence on a Sunday afternoon.

RE: Sure.

JA: Anyway. We had had sort of some interesting involvement in Fairview before over issues of land use management in Fairview. I could see that new people were moving in, that there was going to be some land use issues. That we weren't the rural community that we had been. But, at the same time, I thought the new people coming in and the people already here both wanted to keep Fairview as rural as possible. A long time ago, gosh, when was that? You could probably look it up in the paper. We had a Fairview Town Council that the county allowed us to set up to do some sort of minimal land use planning for the community.

And, it was very unpopular. We were going to come up with a land use plan. It was a huge undertaking. I don't think I had any idea what kind of undertaking it was or that people would object to it so much. Like in a lot of the mountains and other places, it became a place where the old families were not trusting of the new families coming in. A lot of the new families felt like they needed these land use protections to keep Fairview the way they liked it. The old families saw all these new people, we want Fairview the way it was and the best way to do that is get rid of the new people. It was a political clash and... I don't know. It all came about over the word zoning. Would Fairview be zoned? Would certain uses be allowed... have to be in certain... That kind of thing.

SJ: It got ugly some.

JA: It got really ugly. We had one really ugly meeting at the sheriff's department. I was the head of the Town Council. The police came and it was kind of us against the Ramseys, Roy Ramsey at that point. It was ugly. Then we gave up, felt like the community wasn't ready for anything like that. Then there was another round of it, I don't know, probably five or eight years later that I decided that I would let other people handle it because I already had baggage about the whole thing. It was interesting and we got to this point where there were three approaches you could take to managing the growth of Fairview.

One was even to have Fairview become a town, a legal town. My idea, which was a little bit vague and I wasn't sure how to exactly pull it off, was to not create a legal town but to organize people in a way that they could have a say with the county commissioners and with Carolina Power and Light and different... That we could manage it that way. More

of a volunteer thing. Then the third was to do nothing. To just not... Those are the three visions. That one got ugly too. You remember that one, Sandra?

SJ: Not as much as the other one.

JA: Yeah, not as much as the other one. Then eventually the county just imposed mild zoning on rural parts of Buncombe County, as was almost inevitable that would happen. It hasn't been that hard to live with, I don't think.

RE: I was going to say, since you came here in the '70s, what's been the most major change you've seen in Fairview?

JA: Like land use wise? I mean, it's just all the fairly high-end residential building that's gone on, and the increase in land prices and how expensive it is to live here. Wouldn't you say, Sandra? It used to be this was a very inexpensive place.

SJ: This was Farview.

JA: Yeah, Farview, back in the Farview days. It's become a place that just regular working people can't afford to live anymore, which is a shame. I mean, some of the old families are still here, but a lot of them find it too expensive to live here. You can build a place on your old home place or something and live here. And, it's a great community. It's too bad, but it's such a nice community to live in. It's so close to Asheville that inevitably it was going to be a place where people moved to as Asheville grew. We've always had what we used to call CP Clare as a great employer in Fairview. I don't ever want people to take that plant for granted. That has paid for so many families in Fairview to allow

them to make a living and not have to drive far to work. But, that's about it as far as a large industrial plant.

RE: Is CP Clare still operating?

JA: Yeah, they're all across from the elementary school. It's where the pond...

RE: Is that where the pond is?

JA: Yeah.

SJ: ( ) a different name.

JA: I forget what the name is.

RE: What do they make? What is it they make?

JA: They make switches. It changed over the years. They mostly I think make switches for military equipment. Is that what it is?

SJ: Yep.

JA: I never was quite sure.

SJ: When I worked there we made switches for something in airplanes, and then air conditioners, stuff like that. Carrier.

JA: Yeah, electrical switches.

SJ: Carrier was one of them.

JA: Yeah.

RE: Okay. Okay.

JA: Different things. But, it's been just a great part of this community and I don't think people hardly realize it anymore.

RE: Have you had a church affiliation, being here in Fairview?

JA: Yeah, we actually started a church. Like I said, I'd gone to L'Abri and I had this idea of a L'Abri type church, which would've been a church that appealed to young people, young people then. When we started the church, we used to meet over in that... When Susie and Will lived there, we met there, we met in the white barn, the Fletcher's white barn on Sugar Hollow Road. Then we met in the pizza place, what's now a pizza place. Then we moved over to the garage. My brother-in-law, Will, Dr. Hamilton, Will Hamilton, owned... He had his doctor practice there for a while. So, we met in the garage there behind his office there, right next to the library. It was actually my brother-in-law, Will, that sold the land to the county for the library. That was on his property.

Then we built the log church up above the library. It's a Presbyterian Church, PCA, Presbyterian Church in America. By the grace of the Lord, it's still going. The first minister, we finally got the courage up to hire a minister. He came and he was married to woman named Patty. His name was David Sevier, Patty Sevier. And, he fell in love with the woman milking our cows, Betsy Engelbrecht. In those days, one of the great Fairview figures was Terry... who's the guy to pick up the... "Can man." Remember Terry?

SJ: Yeah, but I don't remember his last name.

JA: I'm going to remember it. Anyway, Terry, he would spend all his time picking up cans on the side of the road...

SJ: With his bicycle.

JA: Yeah, with his bicycle. But, he would mooch off everybody. Everybody was nice to him. He could come by people's houses and they'd feed him. Terry Harwood. Terry Harwood. He was the one that told me. He said, "That David's run off with Betsy." I said, "Oh, don't be spreading rumors like that, Terry." I called up Patty, David's wife. And, sure enough... Betsy told me that I had to milk the cows in the morning, that somebody besides David had to preach the sermon. So, we got thrown into action. He ran off with her. And, Patty, who you may know, had moved back to Fairview and married Sandy Lynch.

SJ: I didn't realize that.

JA: Do you know Patty?

SJ: Oh, I love Patty.

JA: Patty is one of the finest people you'd ever want to meet. But, she was the casualty of that event. Because, she moved in behind the Hamiltons and that's how she met Sandy. And, been a great marriage. She was a teacher. He worked for... Might be somebody else to talk to. Sandy worked for the Episcopal Church over in Henderson County.

SJ: I didn’t know that.

JA: Yeah.

RE: Tell me about starting a church. I don't understand how the seed gets planted for a church. When you said y'all started the church, talk to us a little bit about that. Was what you needed not in Fairview somewhere? Is that the way I want to ask it?

JA: Well, we had a bunch of friends and people that lived here on the farm, people that lived roundabout. We had a bunch of friends and there were some other people that had been connected to this L'Abri place, around and about. So, we had a good core group that was interested. It was a matter of keeping it going, having services. Slowly but surely, for a long time, we were of course not affiliated with any church. We originally were affiliated with another Presbyterian Church, the EPC.

That all blew up. We had another minister who brought in a church that had collapsed and brought those people into our church. He wanted a more charismatic type church. Even though that was kind of an anathema to Presbyterians. This EPC group, they thought it was okay. So, that was another conflict in my life was dealing with that. We had a big church blow up. So then, we left the EPC, and then we were nothing for a while. Then we joined the PCA, which is a conservative theologically Presbyterian church. And, our L'Abri idea, it didn't really work out that great. But, lots of other people came to the church and have kept it going.

RE: Talk to me about the L'Abri. I've never heard this. Is it Presbyterian?

JA: Yeah, it's Presbyterian. It's a man named Francis Schaeffer who was a important theologian.

SJ: ( ) where we live.

JA: Yeah, yeah. He was a character. He had a little goatee beard, wore knickerbockers. He left the American Church. He was put out with the American Church and he set up this place on a Swiss Alp where... In those days, lots of people would be traveling around Europe and a lot of them would end up there. It was pretty high... I'd been through college. It was a pretty high intellectual level. It was a response to trying to make Christianity more theologically or more philosophically acceptable to people that were looking for answers to all those kind of questions. It's a very interesting place. Very influential place as it turns out. Anyway. But, it welcomed people that were asking all the big questions and very involved with giving Christian answers to modern philosophers, and that kind of thing. That's what it was about.

RE: How many people started in that church? When you started here, how many started?

JA: Started?

RE: How many do you think?

JA: Probably just 15 or 20. Something like that.

RE: 15 or 20. Then how many did it grow to b,e do you know?

JA: Well, I'd say now we probably have a hundred. It's not been a big megachurch by any means. But, we were able to build this beautiful, I think, beautiful church building. It's all paid for by the grace of God. The people that attend there are probably the more conventional type church people than what we had hoped. But, it's still a great group of people and Betsy, who just came, is one of them. It's been a great experience, one of the great experiences of my life.

RE: That's great. What's the biggest change you've seen in Fairview since you got here? Did I ask that?

JA: You did. I'd say it's just the influx of people moving in. I talked about the fact that I thought the new library, the grocery store, the school, were big changes. The other big change was when they five laned the road. That put Fairview that much closer to Asheville.

RE: Mm-hmm.

JA: It's really only a 20 minute drive from here.

RE: Right.

JA: That made it all the more accessible and appealing to people that wanted to move here.

RE: I'd be interested in your thought about this, because sometimes when talking to the library or having discussions there, people will talk about the Fairview natives, I'll say...

JA: Yeah.

RE: ... are not always real receptive to newcomers.

JA: Yeah.

RE: What's your take on that?

JA: Oh, I mean, that's the struggle here. You understand it. As I've lived here and I can... You think about a community like Fairview where there was, like anywhere, a social

structure. Who was important in the churches? Who was important in the fire department? People like Guy Merrell. Yeah, there was a social structure. We used to have a lot of dairy farms here, including here at the farm. Dairy farms were really... They employed a lot of people. It was probably the top of the line way to make a living on a farm in Fairview. If you ran a dairy farm, you were highly respected. So, a bunch of people come in from outside. They're retirees or they're accountants in Asheville or bankers, and they don't respect... And, they don't mean it that way, but they don't respect or understand the social structure that's already here.

And then, those people speak out about changes they want and it's just the way it happens in communities like this. The native families who used to feel like they ran the place suddenly feel like, "Well, who are these new people coming and trying to tell us what to do?" It's very, very... I think it's very understandable from a human point of view.

RE: How about that?

JA: I don't know how you make it better. Because, in a lot of ways, I feel like a lot of the new people that have come in, they get involved in things like the library or the friends of the library, or they get involved with things that the native people wouldn't necessarily think of or choose to be involved with. They help create community too. But, it just takes a while for everybody to get used to each other. I think that for a lot of the old families, they felt like they had a loss of status in their own community, and that's hard. I don't know. How would you say? That about right?

SJ: Yeah. I've told a few people that Michigan and New Hampshire and all those places are still there.

JA: Yeah. (laughter) Yeah. It's a hard thing. They run the price of land up, so it's just a hard thing for a community to get through. It's not unique to Fairview. But, maybe we've gotten through it to some extent now. I don't know.

RE: Well, do you think there's much room for growth in Fairview? I mean, again, I don't know too much about the area, but is there a lot of room to grow?

JA: I think so. I think it will continue to grow.

RE: Huh.

JA: There's still farms and open land. I can't imagine that it's not going to keep growing. One of the things I got involved with was the Drover's Road Preserve, which is right next to here. You see the big sign for it at the bottom of the hill. I wanted to... That's a pretty good story. There was the McBrayer family, owned a lot of land in this area. That was part of their land was that, it was a 200acre property right up to the Blue Ridge up there. The husband, Johnny McBrayer, the story I was told, in the late 40s, drank bad liquor and died on what's now part of our farm, or was part of our farm then, a little orchard down here.

And, left his widow and two children, two small children. One of the children was severely disabled and the other one was okay. And, she... Forgetting her first name. But, she moved back to Rutherford County where she was from and lived a pretty poor existence there. Her more normal son worked for the DOT, but then was killed in a DOT accident. This is when she was really quite old. Everyone was trying to buy this property from her. Trying to, I would say, steal it from her at a very low price. They knew...

But, she's hung onto it as security for her boys. The one got killed and then the other... She died and the other lived about a month after she did. So, the property went up for auction. This was right next to the farm. I was anxious. I didn't really know what to do. I have a cousin that moved here. And then, this friend, Cam Smail, that lives over in Sugar Hollow, and I got talking to them about that property and they said, "Why don't we buy it?"

So, there was an auction out here in the field. Like everything, it was us against the Ramseys. It was a fun day. I would not have had the courage to take the whole thing on. We had the auction, we won the bid. But, there was a clause that if someone came in with an upset bid over 5% of the last bid, that the auction would be held again. And, Roy did that, I can't remember how many times, three or four times. He really wanted that property too.

But, we hung on and we got it and we've done... Many years ago, I had gone to this lecture on conservation easement developments where you can preserve a lot of the land. Because, the idea being that people buy houses at golf course developments, not because they play golf, because only maybe 30% of the people play. But, they want the open space. They like having a place to walk and trails. I said, "Well, why don't we do something like that? We won't have a golf course, but we'll have a lot of open land." It preserved the land and it was right next to our farm, and that was the big benefit to me.

So, that was my one attempt at development. We still haven't completely sold it out, although I've just about got myself paid back. But, we have high end lots in the midst of this preserved property. It's beautiful. It worked out really, really well. We ended up with

one horrible retired plastic surgeon from Chicago that just about wrecked the place. He would just roam around and accuse people. He would just an awful person. Finally, he moved away and now we're selling lots again. But, that was another... Something I got involved with and still involved with.

RE: Okay. I got to have you tell me about this. You say it was us against the Ramseys.

JA: Yeah.

RE: You said that a couple of times.

JA: Yeah.

RE: Again, somebody who's new.

JA: I mean, that's sort of what...

RE: Who are the Ramseys?

JA: Roy Ramsey. Roy and Nathan and Bart, who were our neighbors. We farmed together. Roy, I mean, we were out there pushing our stuff and Roy was pushing his. It became a battle in this community. Would not say that's fair to say? Then darned it all if then I did ran against Nathan for the state legislature. I don't know, just one of those things.

RE: Has this been something that's been around for a long time and the Ramseys have a lot of history here too?

JA: Yeah. Maybe not quite as much as us, although people may think of them as being here longer than we are. But, they really... Roy came from Tennessee, I think. It was his

dad's farm. I don't know quite their complete history. You should talk to the Ramseys. They're a big part of the history of Fairview.

SJ: Uh huh. So far, they haven't answered.

JA: They won't. Roy can be difficult. Wouldn't you say that's.. He actually loves to talk if you can get him going. You really should talk to him. His strategy, he's a real smart guy. Or, maybe Becky would talk. But, Roy's better because he's been much more involved in all this stuff. His strategy was to farm, but to buy land in Fairview during this period when the price of land in Fairview was going up and up and up. He did some developments too. And, I would imagine still owns a lot of land in Fairview. Isn't that...

They were very involved in the Tiger Woods thing up here. I don't know. I have a feeling they never really got paid for the land they had or something. But, he would just buy land from people that died. He was real shrewd about getting land at a good price. That's kind of what he was all about. Then dairy farming along, which is very, very hard work. I would hope you could talk to him. Keep bugging him because he's a charming talker if you can get him going. But then, you don't see him around much. I don't know what it takes to... I think you have to go over there and talk to him. But, he's definitely an important...

RE: Is he one of those old Fairview families we can knock on the door?

JA: I don't know. Becky's sweet as she could be. Roy... But, Roy is worth talking to.

RE: Okay.

JA: He would have stories about Fairview that no one else... If you get him going on it, about how it's changed and his role. Then Nathan, his son Nathan, was the chairman of the County Commission here. And then, state legislator. And, he's now... I actually work with him all the time now. He works for the Department of Commerce. He's working to bring jobs to Western North Carolina. Doing a really good job.

RE: Now, how long has this property been in the family?

JA: This one?

RE: Aha.

JA: 101 years.

RE: 101 years.

JA: 1916.

RE: Wow.

JA: Yeah. So the story is. In a way, that's what makes this family different. Annie's grandparents were Jim and Elizabeth McClure. He was a Presbyterian minister and his wife was an artist. She had lived in France. She lived next door to Monet for a while, used to watch Monet paint. I mean, from a different world. They both had grown up in suburban Chicago, Lake Forest, Illinois. Maybe this is the first of the outlanders to come in.

They were here on their honeymoon. They were given a Honeymoon Hudson by her dad. They were honeymooning around Western North Carolina in 1916. They came out here

and the road used to go right here. This place wasn't for sale or anything, but she was taken with the setting. They came up and there was an old guy living here, Judge Phillips. 80 year old guy who owned it just for a couple years. And, his wife, who was 18 years old, he was 80, she was 18. It was one of these weird... I don't really understand the relationship.

Anyway, they said what a beautiful place it was and could they lease it or something maybe. Who knows? So, they did. Mr. McClure went and talked to the old guy in the house. And, Elizabeth was out here with the young girl and she just started crying and said she was unhappy and lonely and wanted to move to town where she could have some friends. So, I think she made it happen. That's when they bought it in 1916.

RE: How about that?

JA: He also... It's interesting how families take on this role. But, one of the things he pushed for in Fairview was for better public education here. When they came, there were little one and two room schoolhouses all over Fairview.

SJ: The one's Mamie Sue gave us a picture of.

JA: Yes. One was over at Pleasant Grove. He wanted to consolidate those schools into one school, into Fairview School. Like always, there was resistance, the same sort of resistance. People didn't want to lose their school. They didn't want to lose their identity in the community. There was a famous story where there was a meeting over at Pleasant Grove about that school I think. He was going to go to the meeting and speak. And,

people didn't want him to get there, so they cut trees down on the road so that he couldn't. So, he just walked.

But, it's almost the same as what we've all been through. He was the one that... He went off to find the principal for the new Fairview School. He got it going and got all the funding you needed and all that and helped to create the first Fairview School. And, those other schools ended, which was hard for those communities. Just like there were stores all over Fairview, there were schools all over Fairview because people walked to school. There weren't school buses. So, you had to have a school within walking distance. This was a new thing to have a consolidated school, one school for Fairview.

He ended up starting something called the Farmer's Federation, which is the book I wrote about. His idea was to come here and get this farm going, and then he was going to go be a big-time minister up north somewhere in Baltimore or New York or somewhere. But, he got really interested in the situation of farmers in the mountains and what a struggle it was to make a living. He created a Farmer's Cooperative in 1920 here in Fairview. The idea was to have a store where you could buy supplies cheaper, the old story. And, you could upgrade the breed of pigs and cattle.

All those modern agricultural techniques that weren't being used here in the mountains because people just didn't know about it or they couldn't afford it. He wanted to bring and then use these stores not only to sell high quality fertilizer to farmers, but also unusual... He would buy their crops and market them and try to build this marketing network. It was quite an idea. I think it ended up spreading all over Western North Carolina. It was all the way to Murphy to East of here. It was a big, big deal. They had ended up with a big

office building on the river down in Asheville. It was a big company, but it was all built on this kind of a ministry model.

One of the unusual things he did was brought his brother-in-law to run something called the Lord's Acre, which was the original Lord's Acre in 1930. He felt like the churches in the mountains had no money and he wanted for them to come up with ways to make money so they could hire the minister, educate their minister, get hymn books, get Sunday school materials, that sort of thing. Build better buildings. This Lord's Acre thing, the idea was for people in the church, a Sunday school class or anybody, to raise a patch of strawberries and sell the strawberries and give the money to the church. Dedicate...

There's still churches around that have Fall dedications, the Lord's Acre dedications as a way to raise money. But, it only makes sense when it's a subsistence agriculture when people really didn't have much cash. As the mountains changed, as farming wasn't the only thing most people did, people started working in plants and getting cash in their pocket. The whole Lord's Acre thing didn't make quite as much sense. But, it was a great thing. It too, not only spread over Western North Carolina, a lot of churches took it up all around the world as a way to generate money for churches.

RE: So interesting.

JA: Mm-hmm.

RE: Never heard of that.

JA: Mm-hmm.

RE: Never heard that.

JA: It was Dumont Clarke, it was the brother-in-law. That's why... He was the father of Jamie Clarke that married Elspie. They were first cousins. I always say that Jamie and Elspie were first cousins and they had eight children and every one of them had bad teeth. My job is that marrying into the family was to try to upgrade the teeth.

RE: Do you think of anything else we need to ask John?

SJ: No.

RE: I think I just sit here and listen to you till the end of time. It's just so interesting though. Because, do you ever see yourself leaving Fairview?

JA: No.

SJ: No.

JA: I don't want to go anywhere. I got the greatest spot here.

SJ: No, John.

RE: How much property do you guys own?

JA: Well, that's another thing. We've inherited this property. The property here, it always gets divided up as people die off. When Annie's parents, before they died, they divided the farm up, gave some to each of their children. And then, we've kept most of the central part of the farm as a family limited partnership. But, if you have all the land that's owned by the family members, it's probably 600 acres.

RE: Wow.

JA: But, it's mostly over there. It's just the mountain there. It's where the road is. You can't make any money with it. It's hard to make a living with any of it. It goes over into Henderson County. I think what happened was, in a way, the McClures came down here from suburban Chicago and they had access to money. Elizabeth had these two aunts that had lots of money and never married. He would talk them into buying stuff here.

But, Mr. McClure never made any money... He never made any money from the Farmer's Federation. Didn't even pay himself. So, when he died, the farm was still under mortgage even though he paid only like $75 an acre for most of it. But, people lived all back up in there, and as they went to work at a plant somewhere in town, they would sell out and you probably could get it for pretty cheap.

SJ: All over Ferguson Mountain too.

JA: Yeah. All over the... Yeah. You could run across old chimney places, just everywhere. You're just amazed.

SJ: You should go blackberry picking with Annie on Ferguson Mountain.

JA: Yeah. Yeah. You can't imagine that people could scratch out any kind of living up there. Most of them barely did and were starving families probably. They could get a job on a work crew once they get enough cash to keep going. But, it was the people that Jim McClure wanted to help. But, in a way they would move out and he was someone that would buy their little piece of land. We ended up with beautiful land. I love it. But, it's not very... You can't make any money with it.

We've preserved it all because we love it. We put easements on it. I think when Annie's parents died, everyone thought, "Well, this farming thing's not going to really do much. We're going to have to develop it." We created a development plan that just made me sick in my stomach. And, we decided we'd rather preserve the land and we did. And, got some money out of it for doing that, which was... Since it was the inheritance of Annie's family, that was important. I think everyone's happy with it now.

RE: That's great. You think your legacy will continue with your sons? You think they'll carry on?

JA: Well, I tell people. I say the way you keep a farm going is to be prolific. And, we have a huge number. Well, Jamie's keeping it going. I think we'll keep it going. Like all families, people have trouble and struggle and all of that. In some ways, I worried that living up here in this family is kind of an insulated life. I say you need to get out here. Go away and, if you want to come back, that's fine. But, we have a pretty good group of people that have stuck it out and it's a great place to live. We love having this extended family here. We'll see. It may get harder and harder as the generations...

RE: Uh-huh.

JA: Annie and I need to figure out what to do with our land. We inherited land up in Jackson County too that Mr. McClure had been involved with. He was going to have a hunting fishing club up on the Tuckasegee River. But, anyway, held that together and we still own it. It's beautiful. We preserved it as well. So, keeping it all going, I've got my two older grandsons that are here from Turkey. They're moving here. I said, "I know you guys love coming here. What I really need you to do is to start thinking about the ways

you can help us keep all this going. Even if it's just painting. Find something you'd like to do to..." Because, we have all this property to take care of. It's a lot of hard work.

RE: You can start them milking cows.

JA: Well, we don't have the cows anymore. We got rid of the cows. I would love for them to learn that. We have a friend, Jen, who's somebody else you ought to talk to, who runs the cheese place in Fairview, Looking Glass Creamery. She's great. She just bought a dairy down in Polk County. I think it's about to kill her. I think we warned her that maybe biting off more than you can chew. But, she wanted to control the milk she had for her cheese. She's great. It's been interesting to see people like that come in and do something agricultural in the community.

The Ramseys are... Bart's having the time of his life keeping that dairy farm going. I'm afraid he can't do it. I don't think it's going to last. I don't know what's going to happen to all that land. The dairy farming in this country is just the pits. It's really been that way for a long time. But, it's gotten really bad lately. We used to have... I bet we had 20, 30 dairies in Fairview. It's probably us, the Nesbitts. Mr. Haring has died. I think maybe there's only three dairies left.

RE: Wow.

JA: The talk is that even though the Ramseys... Dairies in the old days used to be 15, 20, 30 cows. The economics kept pushing you, get bigger and bigger and bigger. I don't know how many cows Bart's milking now, but it's over a hundred.

RE: Wow.

JA: But, that's not big enough. Walmart was getting all their milk for their grocery stores from a place called Dean's Food. Dean's Food sent out notices that, after a certain date in May, that they were no longer going to buy their milk at all. That's a panic. You got to have some place to sell your milk.

RE: Wow.

JA: That's the first sign of... You're really going to have to have 10,000 cows. And then, you market your own milk.

RE: Wow.

JA: Have all these cooperatives and everything. I don't know. I'm worried about Bart. Bart's a smart guy and he works every waking hour. He doesn't deserve to lose that dairy. But, he and I are both worried that that's what's going to happen. The price of milk has just gotten too low. I don't know.

RE: So, drink more milk.

JA: Well, yeah. That's the other thing. People don't drink as much milk. Our population is older. Older people don't drink as much milk. But, even kids. I love milk. I go to Raleigh, I get a gallon of milk. I have a little refrigerator there and I just drink it. I slug it all day. I love milk because of the dairy. But, younger people drink... Cokes and iced tea are cheaper and it's sugar water. Not good for you. But, that's what people are drinking. Cokes and Mountain Dews and that stuff that tastes great but not good for you, and aren't drinking as much milk. There's a prejudice against milk now that it may not be good for you. That's one of these ideas floating around.

RE: All right, John.

JA: Yeah, you better go.

RE: Anything else that...

JA: No.

RE: ... you think we need to know about Fairview or your history here that's been anything? Just...

JA: I think you've about talked me out.

RE: Well, I'm going to stop it here. Is that okay, Sandra?

SJ: Yeah. I want to get another picture of him.

END OF INTERVIEW.